

IN THE CLAIMS:

- 1 1. (Previously Presented) A method for proxying data access commands from a first
2 storage system to a second storage system in a storage system cluster, the method com-
3 prising the steps of:
4 receiving a data access command at the first storage system that is directed to the
5 second storage system;
6 forwarding the received data access command to the second storage system via a
7 cluster interconnect;
8 processing the data access command at the second storage system;
9 returning a response from the second storage system to the first storage system via
10 the cluster interconnect; and
11 sending a response to the data access command to a client from the first storage
12 system.
- 1 2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the storage systems are storage appliances
2 and wherein the data access command is received at a proxy port associated with the first
3 storage appliance.
- 1 3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the proxy port comprises a physical port.
- 1 4. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the proxy port comprises a virtual port as-
2 sociated with a physical port.
- 1 5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the response comprises requested read
2 data.

1 6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the response comprises an acknowledge-
2 ment of a write operation.

1 7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the response comprises a predetermined set
2 of read data.

1 8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the cluster interconnect comprises a direct
2 link between the first storage system and the second storage system.

1 9. -16. (Cancelled)

1 17. (Previously Presented) A method for proxying data access commands in a first stor-
2 age system to a second system in a storage system cluster, the method comprising the
3 steps of:

4 analyzing a received data access command at the first storage system;;
5 forwarding the received data access command to the second storage system; and
6 processing the received data access command at the second storage system.

1 18. (Original) The method of claim 17 further comprising the steps of;
2 returning a response from the second storage system to the first storage system;
3 and
4 sending a response to the data access command to the client from the first storage
5 system.

1 19. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the step of forwarding further comprises
2 the step of forwarding the data access command to the second storage system via a clus-
3 ter interconnect.

1 20. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the cluster interconnect comprises a fi-
2 bre channel link.

1 21. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein the cluster interconnect comprises a di-
2 rect link between the first storage system and the second storage system.

1 22. (Original) The method of claim 17 further comprising the step of receiving the data
2 access command is at a proxy port of the first storage system.

1 23. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein the proxy port comprises a physical port.

1 24. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein the proxy port comprises a virtual port
2 associated with the physical port.

1 25. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the response comprises requested read
2 data.

1 26. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the response comprises an acknowl-
2 edgement of the write operation.

1 27. (Previously Presented) A computer readable medium, including program instruc-
2 tions executing on a computer, for proxying data access commands from a first storage
3 system to a second storage system in a storage system cluster, the computer readable me-
4 dium including instructions for performing the steps of:

5 receiving a data access command at the first storage system that is directed to the
6 second storage system;

7 forwarding the received data access command to the second storage system via a
8 cluster interconnect;

9 processing the data access command at the second storage system;

10 returning a response from the second storage system to the first storage system via
11 the cluster interconnect; and
12 sending a response to the data access command to a client from the first storage
13 system.

1 28. (Previously Presented) A system for proxying data access commands from a first
2 storage system to a second storage system connected via a cluster interconnect, the sys-
3 tem comprising:
4 means for receiving a data access command at the first storage system that is di-
5 rected to the second storage system;
6 means for forwarding the received data access command to the second storage
7 system via a cluster interconnect;
8 means for processing the data access command at the second storage system;
9 means for returning a response from the second storage system to the first storage
10 system via the cluster interconnect; and
11 means for sending a response to the data access command to a client from the first
12 storage system.

1 29. (Original) The method of claim 28 wherein storage systems are storage appliances
2 and the data access command is received at a proxy port associated with the first storage
3 appliance.

1 30. (Original) The method of claim 29 wherein the proxy port comprises a physical port.

1 31. (Original) The method of claim 29 wherein the proxy port comprises a virtual port
2 associated with a physical port.

1 32. (Original) The method of claim 28 wherein the response comprises requested read
2 data.

1 33. (Original) The method of claim 28 wherein the response comprises an acknowl-
2 edgement of a write operation. 34. (Original) The method of claim 28 wherein the re-
3 sponse comprises a predetermined set of read data.

1 34. (Original) The method of claim 28 wherein the response comprises a predetermined
2 set of read data.

1 35. (Previously Presented) A method for proxying data access commands from a first
2 storage system to a second storage system in a storage system cluster, the method com-
3 prising:
4 receiving a data access command at the first storage system that is directed to the second
5 storage system;
6 forwarding a data access command from the first storage system to the second storage
7 system;
8 processing the data access command at the second storage system; and
9 returning a response from the second storage system to the first storage system.

1 36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35 further comprises sending a re-
2 sponse to the data access command from the first storage system.

1 37. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35 wherein the data access command is
2 forwarded via a cluster interconnect.

1 38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35 further comprises receiving by the
2 first storage system the data access command that is directed to the second storage sys-
3 tem.

1 39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35 further comprises returning the re-
2 sponse from the first storage system to a client.

1 40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 39 wherein the response is returned via
2 the cluster interconnect.